U.N.D.P. assistance for tourism development projects in Orissa

1759. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tourism development projects are being implemented with U.N.D.P. assistance;

(b) if so, whether any such project is being implemented in Orissa; and

(c) the details of other States where U.N.D.P. assisted tourism development projects are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) An agreement to promote 'Endogenous Tourism: Culture and Craft based Eco-Tourism for Sustainable Livelihoods and Integrated Rural Development' was signed on July 15, 2003 between the Union Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Ministry of Finance and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

UNDP has committed about Rs. 8 crore (US$ 1.8m), over a three-year period (2003-05), for a new initiative that seeks to promote local culture and craft for creating livelihood opportunities as well as projecting these as local attractions for domestic and international tourists.

(b) and (c) The States/sites have not been finalized.

Financial assistance for new tourism projects in U.P.

†1760. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Uttar Pradesh Government for providing financial assistance for the development of its tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have approved any new tourism projects in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism has requested the State Governments/UT Administrations to send project proposals for consideration during the current financial year. Identification and sanction of projects is a continuous process. Tourism projects are sanctioned based on consultations with the State Governments, availability of funds and their *inter-se* priority.

(c) and (d) The following development works have been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh as part of Vaishali-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Varanasi tourist circuit during 2002-03:

Sl. No.	Items of work	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Development of facilities and land-scaping around Maharani Laxmi Bai Memorial, Varanasi	90.00
2.	Development of Dhammacakkap-pavattana Udyan at Sarnath	200.00
3.	Signages	5.00
	TOTAL	295.00

Preservation of caves in Vidarbha, Maharashtra

1761. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Archaeological Survey of India has been drawn to set of rock cut caves belonging to Megalithic period in some districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken by ASI to preserve these caves; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No Megalithic caves have been reported from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.